

Home Minister should make a statement on this issue and in the event of his declining to do so, this issue pertaining to the deteriorating law and order situation in Delhi must be discussed at least once in the form of a Motion such as Calling Attention or a motion under Rule 184 or 193.

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in a large area of Western Rajasthan, the 'Neelgaes' (a kind of big white-footed antelope) very frequently invade the farms and destroy the crops sown by the farmers. The Forest Department has not taken any action to overcome this menace. Owing to it, the farmers guard their fields throughout the night, but herds of 'Neelgaes' enter the fields and destroy the standing crops and the stacked crops. I, therefore, request you to set up a sanctuary for the 'Neelgaes' or else the Central Government should take necessary steps to provide relief to the farmers from this menace.

[English]

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum): The Regional Passport Office in Cochin is almost paralysed or defunct. More than 5,000 applications for passport, which have completed all the formalities are pending for issue. The only reason for this is that out of seven lamination machines, six are out of order. So, they are not issuing the passport. Everyone knows the problem of unemployed youth. There are opportunities for several persons to go to the Gulf countries. They have received Visas; they have completed all the formalities; and except passport

everything is there. This is a very serious situation. People are very much frustrated.

Last year alone, 30,000 applications had been processed in that Office and that existing staff is not sufficient even for processing 10,000 applications. So, the existing staff is not adequate. More over, urgently the lamination machines have to be repaired. If my information is correct, it has got to be repaired only from Nasik because of their sensitive nature. Even a delay by one day means, several persons may lose appointment. So, the External Affairs Minister may look into and make arrangements for the immediate repair of those machines and issue of passport. Thank you.

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI (Bellary) : Sir, I would like to raise the matter regarding bank robbery. Already several Hon. Members have spoken about it. I also would like to bring this to the notice of the Government. This is happening not only in Delhi, but throughout the country it is going on. Wherever rural banks are located, these robberies have become more often. There is no security in the bank and people are losing their confidence in the banking system.

So also, when passengers are travelling in the bus, these robberies are taking place and are being done by anti-social elements to cater to their needs and to further their activities. Therefore, the areas where such incidents are taking place should be located and proper arrangements should be

made to see that the passengers who travel by buses or trains or vans should be given proper security. So, the Government should come forward with a statement immediately so that the people may build up their confidence in the banking system. It is going to be a great loss not only to the nation but also to the depositors who keep money in the banks. Therefore, these things should immediately be stopped.

MR. SPEAKER : I have received a letter from the Hon. Finance Minister regretting the circulation of the views of the economists. I think, the matter can be closed with that.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : What is the letter ?

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : He has regretted.
(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : He has now expressed his regret.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Why should they utilise the Lok Sabha Secretariat for this purpose ? They should not pressurise the Lok Sabha Secretariat. The Secretariat people are very experienced. The Lok Sabha Secretariat must have been pressurised.

MR. SPEAKER : There are two aspects. One aspect relates to the Finance Ministry. The other aspect relates to the legislature secretariat. As far as the Finance Ministry is concerned, I have received a letter and the matter should rest over there.

As far as this Secretariat is concerned, I am personally looking into it for appropriate action.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I am not blaming them. (*Interruptions*) I am not blaming the Secretariat. (*Interruptions*) The Secretariat people know their job. That is why I say that they must have been pressurised. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay-North) This is being informed to Lok Sabha today. We have seen that Rajya Sabha has been informed yesterday. Sir, both the Houses should be treated on par ?

MR. SPEAKER : About what ?

SHRI RAM NAIK : About this incident of expressing the regret by the Finance Minister, the Rajya Sabha was informed yesterday. But this is being announced here today. At least in such matters, both the Houses—Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha—should be treated on par.

MR. SPEAKER : Do not prolong it. I received the letter only in the evening. May be that letter has been written yesterday only. It came to my notice only in the evening. I am informing you now. It is not necessary that you should prolong it.

Now papers to be laid on the Table of the House.